

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 14144 251549Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-02 /059 W
-----053762 260124Z /70

R 251335Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8703
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

S E C R E T CAIRO 14144

DEPT ALSO PASS AID

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID EG US
SUBJ: REQUEST BY CHAIRMAN OF SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY (SCA)
FOR U.S. NAVY ASSISTANCE IN REMOVAL OF MINES

1. DURING 18 AUGUST MEETING BETWEEN SCA CHAIRMAN MASHOUR AND ALUSNA HE ASKED IF ALUSNA AWARE OF THE MINES TO THE EAST OF PORT SAID. ALUSNA REPLIED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, AND REVIEWED FOR MASHOUR IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL THE ENTIRE NIMBUS STREAM OPERATION, ENDING ON THE NOTE THAT THIS EASTERNMOST OF THE FIVE MINE-FIELDS SWEEPED IN NIMBUS STREAM WAS STILL IMPLANTED, AND WHILE THE MINE BATTERIES ARE APPARENTLY DEAD THE MINES ARE STILL SUSCEPTIBLE TO DETONATION DUE TO PHYSICAL IMPACT SUCH AS WOULD LIKELY OCCUR DURING DREDGING.

2. MASHOUR THEN ASKED IF U.S. NAVY WOULD PLEASE COME AND ELIMINATE THESE MINES. ALUSNA SAID IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN APPROVAL FOR SUCH AN OPERATION. HE POINTED OUT PROBLEMS OF FUNDING,

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 14144 251549Z

DIFFICULTIES IN MAKING OPERATIONAL ASSETS AVAILABLE, AND DANGERS TO PARTICIPATING USN PERSONNEL (THE MINES OBVIOUSLY WOULD HAVE TO BE FIRST LOCATED, THEN BLOWN IN PLACE). ALUSNA SAID THAT FRANKLY HE THOUGHT THIS EFFORT, WHILE PERHAPS NECESSARY, WOULD MORE PROPERLY BE THE SUBJECT OF A COMMERCIAL TENDER. MASHOUR SAID THAT HE WAS ALREADY NEGOTIATING WITH A U.S. COMPANY

ON THE SUBJECT, BUT DOUBTED THE COMPANY'S CAPABILITIES FOR SUCH A JOB. ALUSNA SUGGESTED THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES WHICH MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN SUCH A TASK. MASHOUR THEN SAID THAT EVEN SO, HE WOULD LIKE TO ASK FOR USN ASSISTANCE. COULD THIS DISCUSSION BE CONSIDERED AN OFFICIAL REQUEST? ALUSNA VERY POLITELY SAID NO, IT COULD NOT; AN OFFICIAL REQUEST ON THIS SUBJECT SHOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE AMBASSADOR, PRESUMABLY BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER. HERE THE DISCUSSION ENDED.

3. WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHETHER OR NOT GOE WILL SUBMIT OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF MINES AS FOLLOW-UP TO THIS DISCUSSION BETWEEN MASHOUR AND CAPT. BLOCK. SHOULD GOE DO SO, WE BELIEVE RESPONSE SHOULD BE THAT THIS IS SOMETHING EGYPTIANS CAN HANDLE ON THEIR OWN, EITHER DIRECTLY WITH PERSONNEL TRAINED BY US DURING NIMBUS STREAM OPERATION OR THROUGH ENGAGING COMMERCIAL COMPANY TO DO THE JOB. WE DO NOT CONSIDER IT EITHER NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE FOR U.S. NAVY TO UNDERTAKE REMOVAL OF MINES.

4. IF DEPT OR ADDRESSEES HAVE OTHER VIEWS, PLEASE ADVISE.
EILTS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NAVAL FORCES, CANALS, DREDGING, BOMBS (ORDNANCE)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO14144
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770308-0438
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770825/aaaaauow.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 03707053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1490846
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST BY CHAIRMAN OF SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY (SCA) FOR U.S. NAVY ASSISTANCE IN REMOVAL OF MINES
TAGS: EAID, EG, US, SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/03707053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009